

Chairwomen Osten and Walker, Ranking Members Berthel and Nuccio, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Lisa Ruffles and I'm a resident of Danbury.

I am submitting testimony in opposition to Governor Lamont's proposed budget (H.B. 6659), which does not prioritize fully funding all of our public school students.

As I'm sure you know, many of our state's school districts and communities have been chronically and severely underfunded for quite some time. Nearly 70% of Connecticut's public school students do not currently receive the amount of funding the state says they need for a high-quality education. This not only impacts students' academic performance while they're in school, but also their ability to provide for themselves and their families post-graduation.

I am disappointed the governor's budget proposal continues to underfund our public schools and does not provide the funding and resources our students need to be successful both inside and outside of the classroom.

Every student deserves to have access to a high-quality K-12 education that allows them to reach their full potential and prepares them for higher education and the workforce. To achieve this, our state needs a student-centered funding system that fully and equitably funds all students based on their learning needs, and equips them with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

I am urging you to reject Governor Lamont's proposed budget and instead support H.B. 5003, which fully and equitably funds all of Connecticut's public school students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Ruffles  
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